

From: Matthew Tubbs
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 6:25pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the Honorable Court:

As a citizen of the United States and experienced computer professional of several years, I have seen the damage that Microsoft has inflicted on the computer industry and consumers with its blatant violations of antitrust law. While I feel that the proposed settlement is a step in the right direction, I think that there are a few items that need to be addressed:

I. The proposed final judgment excludes open source competitors. Open source operating systems such as Linux and open source projects such as Wine, Apache, and Samba offer consumers real choice because of their quality, stability, speed and security. For these reasons, open source software and operating systems are a viable competitor to Microsoft, and should be treated as such in the wording of the proposed final judgment. Specifically, Microsoft should be required to disclose the Windows API's to open source groups, as well as documentation on communication protocols.

II. In addition to API's and communication protocols, Microsoft should be required to fully disclose its Microsoft Office binary file format specifications to competing organizations. Releasing these file formats would remove the barrier for entry to the office software market, greatly benefiting consumers.

Sincerely,
Matthew R Tubbs